



Joette Katz
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES
Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

August 11, 2015

To: Residential and Facility Providers

From: Joette Katz, Commissioner

Re: Influenza and Meningococcal Vaccinations for DCF Committed Children

Based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), it is advised that children living in residential or dormitory settings be considered for, and as appropriate receive both the seasonal influenza and meningococcal vaccines. The influenza vaccine is administered every year to prevent seasonal flu. For 2015-16, US-licensed influenza vaccines will contain an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Switzerland/9715293/2013(H3N2)-like virus and a B/Plunket/3073/2013-like (Yamagata lineage) virus. This represents changes in the influenza A (H3N2) virus and the influenza B virus as compared with the 2014-2015 season. The quadrivalent vaccine includes an additional B virus (Bisbane/60/2008-like). The annual influenza immunization is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older who does not have a contraindication.

Meningococcal vaccines protect against most types of meningococcal disease. The vaccine should be administered consistent with updated ACIP guidelines which recommend 1) routine vaccination of adolescents, preferably at age 11 or 12 years, with a booster dose at age 16 years and 2) vaccination of special populations and persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease. Please refer to ACIP guidelines for details <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/mening.html>.

This memo applies to DCF-committed children except those involved as committed delinquent or families with service needs (FWSN) and serves as permission for that committed child to receive the vaccine(s) based on the medical clearance and recommendation of that child's pediatric medical provider. For children involved with DCF as committed delinquent or FWSN, authorization must be obtained from the child's parent or legal guardian. Please note that per Federal law, we have reviewed the Vaccine Information Sheets (VIS) for both vaccines and have had any and all questions answered.

These vaccinations are not necessarily appropriate or approved for all children and youth and therefore consent should be given only when they have been recommended for a specific child by a health provider familiar with that child.

JK/fw

Cc: Fredericka Wolman, MD, MPH
Director of Pediatrics